

Grade 8 ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS Sample: Paper/Pencil Scoring Guide

1. Choose the sentence that **best** supports that Ansel Adams' approach to photography changed from a hobby to an art form. (RI1)
 - F. "People responded to them and my interest in the creative potential of photography grew."
2. Which statement **best** summarizes the central idea of the text? (RI2)
 - C. Ansel Adams approached photography with the desire to capture the experience within the setting or subjects taken, evoking a range of emotion from his viewers.
3. First, read the dictionary definition. Then, complete the task. (RI4, L4a)

(n) 1. caretaker

Choose the word from the text that most closely matches the definition provided.

 - A. Starting when he was eighteen, he spent four summers in Yosemite National Park as a custodian for the Sierra Club headquarters.

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4. What **most likely** did the author intend by mentioning Ansel Adams' apprenticeship with Frank Dittman in paragraph 2? Support your answer with evidence from the text. (RI3)

A **2-point** response:

- Gives sufficient evidence of the ability to make a clear inference/conclusion
- Includes specific examples/details that make clear reference to the text.
- Adequately explains inference/conclusion with clearly relevant information based on the text

Responses may include (but are not limited to):

- (inference) The author wanted to show how interested and dedicated Ansel Adams was to photography.
- (support) working for free
- (support) how he was unhappy with the development work done on his first pictures
- (support) the purpose of his apprenticeship

A **1-point** response:

- Gives limited evidence of the ability to make an inference/conclusion
- Includes vague/limited examples/details that make reference to the text.
- Explains inference/conclusion with vague/limited information based on the text

Responses may include those listed in the 2 point response.

A **0-point** response:

- Gives no evidence of the ability to make an inference/conclusion
OR
- Gives an inference/conclusion but includes no examples or no examples/details that make reference to the text
OR
- Gives an inference/conclusion but includes no explanation or no relevant information from the text

5. This question has **two** parts. First, answer part A. Then, answer part B. (RI6)

Part A

Which of these inferences about the author's purpose is supported by the text?

A. She wants to reveal Ansel Adams' inspiration

Part B

Which sentence from the text **best** supports your answer in part A?

C. "He created his photos carefully, as though they were paintings like those seen at the Expo."

6. This question has **two** parts. First, answer part A. Then, answer part B. (RI3)

Part A

Select the statement that best describes what the use of Ansel Adams' work sheets shows about his dedication to photography.

C. The work sheets show that Adams gave serious consideration to the art of photography.

Part B

Which sentence from the text **best** supports your answer in part A?

C. "This helped him to improve with every photo he took, and he read every book and magazine he could find to learn more."

7. Read the line from the text. (RI5)

"The picture we make is never made for us alone," he said later. "It is, and should be, a communication—to reach as many people as possible."

What effect does the author's use of Adams' words have on the reader's understanding of Adams' work? Select **two** options.

B. that Adams intended to share his photography with the public
D. that Adams thought about creating art as a way of speaking to the world

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- 8.** Read the line from the text. (L5)

He studied the movement of sun and clouds, often waiting hours for the perfect light with which to "paint" his photograph.

What effect does the author create by using the words “the perfect light with which to 'paint' his photograph”?

- C. The phrase creates a picture of Adams capturing the best moment in which to produce art.
- 9.** A student is writing a report for English class about famous Chicago landmarks. Read a paragraph from the draft of the report and complete the task that follows. (W2f)

...

The student thinks the paragraph needs an ending that is more appropriate for the audience. Choose the sentence that would **best** replace the underlined sentence.

- C. To this day, Wrigley is the only ballpark with an ivy-covered outfield wall.
- 10.** A student is writing a research report about the volcanic island, Surtsey, for a class assignment. Read the paragraph from a draft of the report and answer the question that follows. (W2f)

...

Which sentence **best** concludes the paragraph?

- D. This island is important because it has been a valuable tool for scientists studying plant and animal life.

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- 11.** A student is writing an editorial for the local newspaper about cell phones in schools. Read the draft of the editorial and complete the task that follows. (W1a)

...

Write an introduction to the editorial that establishes and introduces a clear claim that supports the use of cell phones in schools.

A **2-Point** Response:

- establishes an appropriate claim that adequately articulates the argument(s) presented in the stimulus
- provides adequate information to put the claim about the school board's plan to frame the argument /put it into context
- does more than list arguments to support the claim—not formulaic
- provides an adequate connection to the body paragraph

A **1-Point** Response:

- provides a claim that partially reflects the argument(s) presented in the stimulus
- provides general information that attempts to frame the argument/put the claim into context
- may list arguments—formulaic
- provides a weak connection to the body paragraph

A **0-Point** Response:

- provides no claim OR provides a claim that is not adequate/ appropriate for the stimulus
- provides irrelevant or no information to frame the argument or put the claim into context
- provides no appropriate connection to the body paragraph

- 12.** A student is writing a school newspaper article about photic sneezers. Read the draft of the article and answer the question that follows. (W2, L6)

...

The student wants to replace the underlined words with ones that are more specific. Which **two** pairs of words would best replace the underlined words?

- B. brilliant, genetic
- E. intense, hereditary

- 13.** Choose the sentence that does **not** contain errors in grammar usage. (L1b)

D. Once Rufus and I were safely home, I gave him a bowl of water, which he drank as if he were dehydrated.

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- 14.** Choose the sentence that does **not** contain any errors in grammar usage or punctuation. (L1, L2, L3)
- A. John brought a bagged lunch, but he did not have time to eat it.
- 15.** A student is writing a research report for science class about how rainfall affects crop production. Read **Source 1** and the directions that follow. (RI9, RI1)
- C. In addition, every county in the state also had a lower corn yield in 2012 than in 2011.

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- 16.** A student is writing a research report about the Great Barrier Reef. Read both sources and the directions that follow.(W8, W9)

...

The student took notes about information in the sources. Select **two** notes that correctly paraphrase, or restate, information from both sources.

- B. The Great Barrier Reef is home to many colorful fish and the greatest variety of coral.
- E. Australia benefits from tourists' desire to explore the unique and hearty coral found in the Great Barrier Reef.